

COLUSA COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

April 6, 2000

The meeting of the Colusa County Children and Families Commission was called to order at 1:40 p.m. in the Morse Conference Room at the Colusa Library, 738 Market Street, Colusa, California. Commissioners Nolan Gonzales, Nancy Parriott, and Christy Scofield were present, constituting a quorum.

Items discussed and actions taken in accordance with the publicly-posted agenda were as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes: March 21, 2000 Meeting

Commissioner Parriott moved to approve the minutes without correction; motion seconded by Commissioner Gonzales. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (3/0).

2. Review Outstanding Invoices and Approve Payment of Expenses

Mike Smith reported that cost estimates have been received for printing of large display signs for use at the Family Fair and other public events. The signs would have the same artwork and text found on the billboards throughout the state sponsored by the State Commission with themes like "Please don't smoke in my world." A vinyl sign, 21" by 45", would cost about \$100. A larger 32" by 68" vinyl sign would be about \$220. No plans have been announced yet by the State Commission to pay for these kinds of media items for the counties. Based on the cost and the fact that the Family Fair will be happening right away, the Commission decided not to proceed with purchasing signs at this time.

An invoice and monthly status report was submitted by Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. for consulting services rendered in March and related expenses. The total invoice amount is \$6,964.35, consisting of \$5,850 in consulting fees and \$1,114.35 in expenses. Approximately \$700 of the expenses was related to conducting the survey of service providers and professionals. The remaining expenses were for travel to Los Angeles to attend the March State Commission meeting and travel to/from Colusa for County Commission meetings.

3. Review of Community Needs and Resources Assessment Report

A town meeting was held in Grimes on April 4th, with 9 parents attending. Excellent feedback was obtained and is reflected in the surveys that were completed. It was noted that when people at the Grimes town meeting talked about needing "parent education," it appeared that what was meant was academic education for parents to improve their literacy level and otherwise help them so they could tutor their children.

The preliminary draft of the complete Community Needs and Resources Assessment report was discussed. General feedback was that the report looks very good, and the Commission has sufficient information to proceed with development of the various elements of the strategic plan. Remaining tasks to complete the assessment report are (1) incorporate the results of the Grimes town meeting, (2) incorporate the additional parent and provider surveys received since the draft was issued, and (3) enhance the information in the Community Resources section.

Other notes from the discussion of the assessment report:

- Concern was expressed about the literacy level of people who did not attend the town meetings. The needs that were expressed for academic education for parents at the Grimes town meeting may only be the tip of the iceberg.
- Regarding health care availability, there are already two nurse practitioners doing primary care in Colusa. Given the requirements for physician supervision of nurse practitioners, we may not be able to add more mid-level practitioners without adding more physicians.
- Dental care for children was consistently identified as a major need, and yet when CHDP exams note the need for dental care and offer to pay for the necessary care, few parents follow through. It is unclear what the reasons are for the low rate of follow through; lack of transportation, language barriers, lack of motivation by parents, or other factors are possible.
- When expanding services or implementing new services, it will be important for many people to clarify what services do not require proof of legal immigration status.
- Educating parents and showing them how to teach their children may be a faster way to raise the development level of children than focusing only on direct education for children.

4. Intended Scope of Strategic Plan and Desired Approach, Participation and Responsibilities for Developing the Components of the Plan

Discussion occurred regarding the intended scope of the strategic plan being developed – whether it would be a “Proposition 10” plan focused entirely on activities that could be funded through the Children and Families First Trust Fund or whether it would be a comprehensive countywide plan for early childhood development that would tie together many service providers and funding sources. Commissioners noted that there is a great need to integrate existing services and fill gaps in services, which means that many service providers and other groups need to work together to create effective solutions. As a result, there was a consensus that we should strive to create a comprehensive countywide plan.

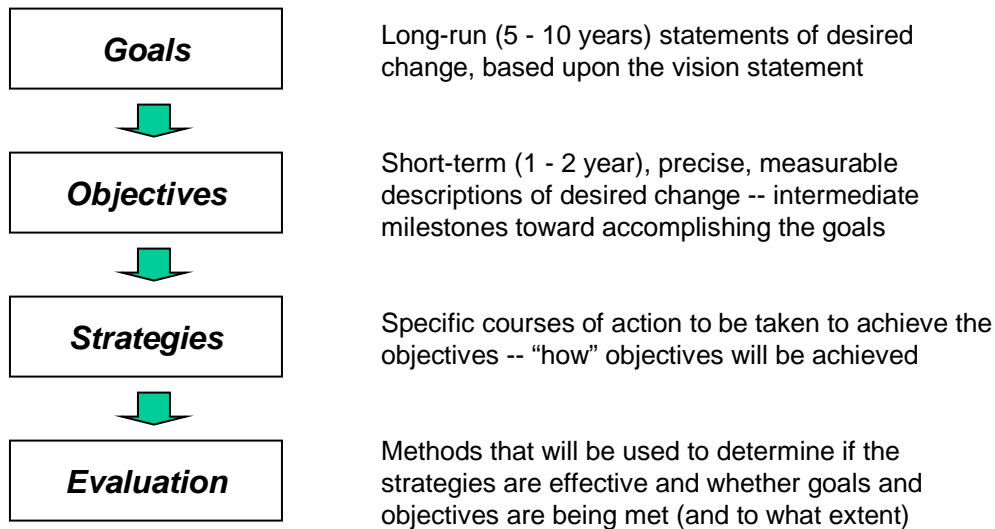
Discussion then proceeded on how to involve various stakeholders in the planning process so that a comprehensive, inclusive plan could be developed. Points raised were:

- It is the job of the Children and Families Commission to develop goals and objectives. This is not an aspect of planning that is appropriate to hand over to an advisory committee, although feedback will be welcomed from any advisory committee that is formed.
- The Inter-agency Children’s Council is being developed by Kay Sharpe from the Department of Health and Human Services, using the resources from the Small County Initiative grant that was recently received by the county. This group would be an ideal forum to bring together many different agencies to work on developing strategies to achieve the goals and objectives. The target population for the Council are children age 0 to 18 years, so the Council would need to be amenable to focusing initially on the 0-5 age group mandated by Proposition 10 and then expanding to the broader view of all children.
- A coordinator will be hired soon through the Small County Initiative grant and will help a lot in bringing the various agencies together. The grant is also expected to cover the development of two different resource manuals.
- Charlette Laupe from the Yuba College Career Resource Center noted that a round table meeting was held about two years ago to bring together many different agencies. In that meeting, a strong interest was shown in coordinating services. It was clear that many people did not know about each other’s services.
- Bob Beacham, a community advocate attending the meeting, described his efforts to bring together existing services within the City of Colusa.

Commissioner Scofield volunteered to go with Mike Smith and approach Kay Sharpe about partnering with the Inter-agency Children's Council to develop strategies, outcomes and indicators as well as look at ways to blend and match funds in order to get the most out of the funding available to Colusa County.

5. Define Strategic Goals and Objectives

Bob Beacham presented the idea of using teams to work collaboratively on developing strategies and evaluating the feasibility of strategies. Mike Smith then gave a brief overview of the terminology contained in the State Commission guidelines regarding goals and objectives, which is reflected in the diagram below.



The consensus of the Commission was that a full-day planning retreat needs to be held in order to develop the goals and objectives for the strategic plan. Commissioner Gonzales offered to have the meeting held in the conference room at the Indian center. Lunch can be catered there also. Possible dates for the retreat are May 4, 5, 12 and 17. Mike Smith will follow up to get a date scheduled and finalize the location.

6. Public Comment and Unscheduled Matters

- Charlette Laupe asked about the Commission's interest in sharing office space with the Career Resource Center. Commissioner Scofield noted that no decision has been made yet. A decision on office space will probably be deferred until it is known when staff would be hired to support the work of the Commission.
- Mike Smith suggested that the Proposition 10 Technical Assistance Center be contacted to provide additional consulting support at no cost to the Commission. Three areas of assistance could be sought: (1) an expert in development and integration of service delivery systems to assist with development of strategies; (2) assistance with organizational development issues such as what kind of legal entity status to elect and how to cover the various staff functions needed by the Commission in the future; and (3) assistance with the writing of the strategic plan, shifting costs from the contract with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. to the TA Center to save money for the county. Steve Barrow was identified as a potential consultant for the first item; Mike Smith can be requested for the other two items. Commissioner Scofield agreed to contact the TA Center to request assistance.

7. Dates for Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be the full-day planning retreat on Friday, May 12. Meeting times and the location are being finalized and will be communicated soon.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mike Smith, consultant to the Commission.